

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A device for dispensing ~~wine~~ a liquid fluid from a ~~wine-bottle container~~ and for protecting unpoured ~~wine liquid fluid~~ from excessive oxidation by reducing ullage, comprising:

a hollow interior of said ~~bottle container~~ defining a ~~wine liquid fluid~~ chamber;

a stopper removably mounted in a neck of said ~~wine-bottle container~~;

said stopper having a first, extended position relative to said neck of said ~~wine-bottle container~~ that enables pouring of ~~wine liquid fluid~~ from said ~~bottle container~~,

said stopper having a second, retracted position relative to said neck of said ~~wine-bottle container~~ that prevents ~~wine liquid fluid~~ from being poured from said ~~bottle container~~;

a first bore formed in said stopper, said first bore having a first diameter and extending longitudinally from a top wall of said stopper to a bottom wall of said stopper;

a second bore formed in said stopper, said second bore having a second diameter greater than said first diameter;

said second bore having a radially-extending first part and a longitudinally-extending second part;

said radially-extending first part having a radially outermost end in open communication with a sidewall of said stopper;

said longitudinally-extending second part having a lower end in open communication with said bottom wall of said stopper;

said radially outermost end being in open communication with ambient when said stopper is in said first, extended position;

said radially outermost end being closed by said neck of said ~~wine-bottle container~~ when said stopper is in said second, retracted position;

an inflatable bladder in fluid communication with said first bore;

inflating means for inflating said bladder;

said inflating means being connected to said top end of said first bore;

said inflatable bladder adapted to displace ~~wine~~ liquid fluid remaining in said ~~bottle~~ container when said bladder is inflated;

whereby when said stopper is in said extended position, ~~wine~~ liquid fluid in said ~~bottle~~ container is poured from said ~~bottle~~ container through said second bore;

whereby when said stopper is in said extended position, said inflating means is operated to inflate said bladder so that ~~wine~~ liquid fluid in said ~~wine~~ liquid fluid chamber is displaced by said bladder until said ~~wine~~ liquid fluid displaces substantially all air from said ~~wine~~ liquid fluid chamber so that no oxygen is in contact with said ~~wine~~ liquid fluid;

whereby said stopper is placed into said retracted position after inflation of said bladder; and

whereby said inflating means is then disconnected from said first bore without affecting the level of ~~wine~~ liquid fluid in said ~~wine~~ liquid fluid chamber.

2. (original) The device of claim 1, further comprising:

said means for inflating said bladder including a hand-held air pump that includes a neck having a free end that is removably placed into fluid communication with said first bore so that alternately squeezing and releasing said hand-held air pump causes air to flow through said neck, through said first bore, and into said bladder.

3. (original) The device of claim 1, further comprising:

said means for inflating said bladder including a pump having a cylindrical main body, a plunger mounted for reciprocation with said main body, a handle secured to a trailing end of said plunger and an outlet nozzle in fluid communication with said top end of said first bore so that operation of said pump causes air to flow through said first bore into said bladder.

4. (currently amended) The device of claim 3, further comprising:

a restrictor for preventing separation of said stopper from said neck of said ~~wine~~ bottle container;

said restrictor including a top wall having a central aperture formed therein that slideably receives said cylindrical pump body of said pump;

a compression fitting that engages said ~~bottle~~ container neck;

a plurality of straight interconnecting rods that are circumferentially spaced from one another and that interconnect said top wall and said compression fitting; and

a release handle that disengages said compression fitting from said bottle container neck to enable removal of said restrictor from said bottle container neck;

said stopper having a rim at an upper end thereof;

said top wall disposed in overlying relation to said rim;

said diameter of said central opening being less than a diameter of said rim so that when said restrictor is displaced downwardly, said stopper is displaced downwardly into its second, retracted, or closed configuration.

5. (currently amended) A device for dispensing wine liquid fluid from a wine bottle container and for protecting unpoured wine liquid fluid from excessive oxidation by reducing ullage, comprising:

a stopper removably mounted in a neck of said wine bottle container;

said stopper having a top part and a base that depends from said top part, said base having a reduced diameter relative to a diameter of said top part;

a first bore formed in said stopper, said first bore having a first diameter and extending longitudinally from a top wall of said stopper to a bottom wall of said stopper;

a cap removably mounted to said stopper, said cap being removed from said stopper when wine liquid fluid is being poured from said bottle container and said cap closing said first bore when no wine liquid fluid is being poured from said bottle container;

a second bore formed in said stopper, said second bore having a first, radially-extending part and a second, longitudinally-extending part;

said second bore having a second diameter less than said first diameter;

said second bore extending radially relative to a longitudinal axis of said stopper;

said second bore having a radially outer end in open communication with a sidewall of said stopper;

an inflatable bladder connected in fluid communication to said first bore, said inflatable bladder having an exterior surface that contacts wine liquid fluid inside said bottle container;

said bladder being inflated by pumping air into said first bore after wine liquid fluid has been decanted from said bottle container;

said bladder being inflated until wine liquid fluid remaining in said bottle container rises through said first bore to a level spaced from said top wall of said stopper by a depth of said cap;

whereby installing said cap closes said first bore and prevents air from contacting said ~~wine~~ liquid fluid remaining in said ~~bottle~~ container.

6. (currently amended) A device for dispensing ~~wine~~ liquid fluid from a ~~wine-bottle~~ container and for protecting unpoured ~~wine~~ liquid fluid from excessive oxidation by reducing ullage, comprising:

a stopper removably mounted in a neck of said ~~wine-bottle~~ container;

said stopper having a top part having a first diameter greater than an internal diameter of a neck of said ~~wine-bottle~~ container;

said stopper having a base having a second diameter that is reduced with respect to said top part;

said second diameter being slightly less than said internal diameter of said neck of said ~~wine-bottle~~ container so that said base is snugly received within said neck;

sealing means disposed in circumscribing relation to said base to prevent ~~wine~~ liquid fluid in said ~~bottle~~ container from flowing around said base;

an internally threaded bore formed in said top part;

a dispenser having a top part having a first diameter and a second part having a second diameter that is reduced with respect to said first diameter;

said bottom part of said dispenser being externally threaded to screw-threadedly engage said internally threaded bore formed in said top part of said stopper;

a ~~wine~~ liquid fluid duct formed in said stopper, said ~~wine~~ liquid fluid duct extending longitudinally from a top wall of said stopper to a bottom wall of said stopper, said ~~wine~~ liquid fluid duct being co-extensive with said internally threaded bore formed in said top part of said stopper;

a pour spout extending radially outwardly from said dispenser in open fluid communication with said ~~wine~~ liquid fluid duct;

an air duct formed in said stopper, said air duct having a ninety degree bend formed therein and having a radially-extending part and a longitudinally-extending part that are in open fluid communication with one another but not in fluid communication with said ~~wine~~ liquid fluid duct;

said radially-extending part of said air duct being formed in said top part of said stopper and said longitudinally-extending part of said air duct extending from a radially-innermost end of said radially-extending part to said bottom wall of said stopper;

said radially outward end of said air duct being in open communication with an ambient environment;

an inflatable bladder having an exterior surface that contacts ~~wine~~ liquid fluid inside said ~~bottle~~ container;

said inflatable bladder being connected to a bottom end of said longitudinally-extending extending part of said air duct;

inflating means adapted to be removably connected in fluid communication with said radially-extending part of said air duct so that operation of said inflating means inflates said bladder;

said bladder, when inflated, displacing ~~wine~~ liquid fluid remaining in said ~~bottle~~ container so that the ~~wine~~ liquid fluid level within said ~~bottle~~ container rises to displace air from said ~~wine~~ liquid fluid chamber;

said air being vented from said ~~wine~~ liquid fluid chamber through said ~~wine~~ liquid fluid duct;

whereby said ~~wine~~ liquid fluid is protected from oxidation when substantially all air in said ~~wine~~ liquid fluid chamber is displaced therefrom.

7. (currently amended) A method for inserting an inflatable bladder into a ~~bottle~~ container without touching the inflatable bladder, comprising the steps of:

providing said stopper with a main body and a neck having a reduced diameter relative to said main body;

forming an air duct and a ~~wine~~ liquid fluid duct in said main body and in said neck;

sealing a mouth of said bladder to a mounting tube so that a first end of the mounting tube protrudes from the bladder and a second end of the mounting tube extends into the hollow interior of the bladder;

folding said bladder along a plurality of longitudinal folding lines that are parallel to one another and equidistantly spaced apart from one another to create an accordion fold so that a width of said bladder when accordion-folded is only slightly greater than a width of said mounting tube;

folding said bladder along a transverse folding line so that a bottom of said bladder is spaced slightly downwardly from a top of said bladder;

removing said longitudinally and transversely folded bladder from a wrapper by withdrawing the wrapper until said first end of the mounting tube protrudes from the wrapper;

positioning said stopper in an upright configuration and inserting said first end of said mounting tube into said air duct while holding said wrapper;

inverting said wrapper and said stopper;

further withdrawing said wrapper until said bottom end of said bladder protrudes from said wrapper;

inserting said bottom end of said bladder into a neck of a bottle container while holding said wrapper;

further withdrawing said wrapper until said bladder is fully removed therefrom;

returning said stopper to said upright position and further inserting said bladder into said bottle container until said bladder is fully received within said bottle container;

inserting said neck of said stopper into sealing relation to said neck of said bottle container;

whereby said stopper and bladder are fully inserted into said bottle container without touching said bladder.